

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 209 – SB 1472

February 12, 2009

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires students who have taken a course in foreign language to take and pass a proficiency test before graduation.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures - \$3,000,000/One-Time
\$2,000,000/Recurring**

**Increase Local Expenditures - \$200,000/One-Time*
\$100,000/Recurring***

Assumptions:

- Seven tests will be offered each year to approximately 75,000 students.
- The Department of Education (DOE) will issue an RFP for test development, operations management, actual test materials, and scoring and reporting. Test processing and staff to scan the tests will be handled by DOE. Based upon an existing contract to process English Language Learner tests for students in grades K-12, DOE estimates the total cost for the addition of this requirement will be approximately \$5,000,000. Of this amount, approximately \$3,000,000 will be one-time expenditures and approximately \$2,000,000 will be recurring expenditures.
- The item and test development is estimated to cost \$1,350,000 for the vendor management team to develop the tests.
- Vendor scoring and reporting for the new foreign language tests will cost approximately \$1,450,000. Each test and aggregate report has a vendor set-up fee to make diagnostic reports back to the state, system, school, and teacher, and student levels.
- Actual test materials will cost approximately \$1,250,000 for tests, design work, and other materials. Design work will be done by the vendor.
- DOE estimates that two full-time staff will be hired to help process the tests. One position will be approximately \$51,000 (\$33,660 salary and \$17,340) benefits and the other approximately \$40,000 (\$26,400 salary and \$13,600 benefits). In addition, temporary workers will be hired

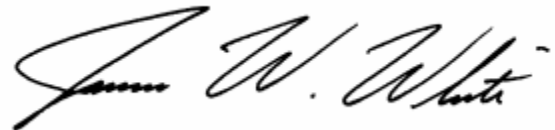
seasonally at the state temporary rate for that season. It is unknown exactly how many temporary workers will be hired. This will be dependent upon the volume of tests and the number of students actually taking the tests. DOE estimates that total staffing and other processing costs will be approximately \$655,000.

- Approximately \$295,000 will be paid for vendor and state standard set and other psychometric requirements. Since these tests will be considered “secure,” questions will not be recycled from year to year. In addition, the tests must be statistically tested in a variety of formats to ensure their validity and reliability over time.
- Teachers and district level personnel will be trained to administer these tests. Other staff development will also be needed. The state will charge a fee-for-service for some portions of the training. In addition, LEAs may be responsible for travel costs if training cannot be arranged within the district. While the exact cost is unknown, DOE estimates that there will be an increase in local expenditures of approximately \$300,000 in the first year of implementation and approximately \$100,000 on a recurring basis.

*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: *no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "W".

James W. White, Executive Director

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